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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 809Z

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA 3615

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ BUENOS AIRES 5861

LIMDIS

FOR ASST SEC BOWDLER

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/21/86 (CROSS, ROBERT D.) OR-O

TAGS: OTRA (BOWDLER, WILLIAM G.)

SUBJECT: BOWDLER VISIT

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SCHEDULE IS BEING DEVELOPED AND WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL.

3. DUE TO HIGH EXPECTATIONS AMONG ARGENTINE LEADERS THAT US POLICY CHANGES WILL VERY SOON LEAD TO SUBSTANTIVELY IMPROVED RELATIONS, YOUR VISIT WILL SYMBOLIZE CONFIRMATION THESE POSSIBLY INFLATED DESIRES. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY URGES CAREFUL ATTENTION TO ALL STATEMENTS THAT MIGHT TEND TO REINFORCE VIEW THAT MILITARY SALES WILL SOON RESUME, THAT USG IS SEEKING WAYS AROUND HUMPHREY-KENNEDY EVEN BEFORE CONGRESS MIGHT REVOKE OR AMEND IT AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS HAVE BEEN ALTERED, OR AS SOME HOPE, DROPPED ALTOGETHER.

4. MEDIA INTEREST WILL BE VERY HIGH SINCE YOU WILL BE THE FIRST "LINE-OFFICER" TO HAVE VISITED ARGENTINA SINCE THE GOODPASTER TRIP. ARGENTINE ABILITY TO CONVINCE THEMSELVES THAT US POLICY OPENINGS ARE DUE TO US PERCEPTION AT LONG LAST THAT ARGENTINA WAS CORRECT ALL ALONG IS INCREDIBLY STRONG AND WIDESPREAD. BOTH ARGENTINE AND FOREIGN MEDIA WILL COVER YOUR VISIT EXTENSIVELY. YOU WILL ENCOUNTER PRESS AT ALL OF YOUR STOPS WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE RECEPTION AT THE RESIDENCE AND, IF THEY CHOSE TO CONTROL THEM, AFTER VISITS TO THE JUNTA MEMBERS.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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5. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU BE PREPARED TO MAKE AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT STRESSING TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP, THE PRESIDENT'S DEEP AND PERSONAL INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA, HIS PLEDGE (MADE AT THE START OF HIS ADMINISTRATION) TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN NATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF US RESPONSES TO REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND, WITHIN THAT CONTEXT, OUR TRADITIONAL DESIRE TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH ARGENTINA. A CLEAR, PRECISE STATEMENT OF THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT WILL BE REQUIRED.

6. WE RECOMMEND A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE END OF YOUR VISIT FOR PRESS, RADIO AND TV. THIS WOULD BE HELD IN THE EMBASSY AUDITORIUM. IT WILL ALLOW US AND YOU TO TELL ALL COMERS DURING THE VISIT THAT YOU WILL ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS ON THAT ONE, CONTROLLED OCCASION. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUMMARIZE YOUR IMPRESSIONS AND REINFORCE AGAIN THE CONTINUITY OF US POLICY TO OFFSET PARTIALLY THE TENDENCY NOTED IN 3 AND 4 ABOVE.

7. THERE IS A SMALL RESIDENT AMERICAN PRESS CORPS HERE. THEY PRODUCE IMPORTANT ARTICLES FOR DOMESTIC USE IN THE STATES. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO MEET ON A BACKGROUND BASIS WITH THEM AT SOME TIME DURING YOUR VISIT. ONE HOUR WOULD SUFFICE. CASTRO

BT

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